



Herald Photo/Bonnie Ellis

Sundance employees Scott Nyman, left, and Jerry Warren say the resort is ready for the ski season to start.

Sundance waiting for Mother Nature

By DOROTHY KNOELL
Herald Sports Writer

Everything else is done. The missing ingredient in the recipe for winter skiing is snow.

Sundance was ready for snow two weeks ago, said Jerry Warren as he drove the Jeep Cherokee up Sundance's snowless slopes last week.

Warren, director of skiing and mountain operations at Sundance, said preparations for winter skiing have been going on since the ski season closed last winter.

From the top of Mandan lift, he and Ski School Director Scott Nyman pointed to widened ski lanes. The lanes will provide bet-

ter access out of Bishop's bowl on Sundance's backmountain, they said.

Warren said existing slopes have had the brush on them cropped back.

"We finished all our preparations about two weeks ago and are ready to ski as soon as snow arrives," Warren said.

While most other Utah ski areas have already missed their targeted openings — most set dates between Nov. 15 and Thanksgiving — Warren remains confident Sundance can still open by its targeted Dec. 8 date.

"All it usually takes is two real good storms," said Nyman.

Sundance was hit by a good storm Friday night which dumped 19 new inches on the back mountain and 5 inches at the base, Nyman said. An additional storm is predicted to deposit another foot of snow tonight, he said.

If the extra foot comes, the resort should be very close to having enough snow to open, Nyman said. Although Dec. 8 is still two weeks away, Sundance usually stays cold enough at this time of year to keep snow from melting, he said.

Generally, Sundance doesn't have enough snow to open until December, Nyman said. Over the last eight years, Sundance has

opened in November four times.

"We're not nervous yet," he said. "We're expecting a very good season."

Warren and Nyman said there's a big change in Sundance's philosophy about skiing at Utah County's only ski resort.

Warren said for many years there may have been some uncertainty whether Sundance was business that also happened to have a ski resort attached or whether Sundance was a serious ski resort in its own right.

"We are back into the ski business," said Warren.

He said Sundance now covers (See SUNDANCE, Page A2)

...the issue is whether the
first president of the new 2-
month-old Hungarian republic
should be chosen before or after
free multiparty elections next
year — the first such elections
since the Communists consoli-
dated power in 1948.
Parliament had originally
scheduled the presidential elec-
tions this year as part of an
agreement reached earlier this

...president. A Socialist Party was
created following the dissolution
of the Communist Party.

Under the newly created job,
the president is commander of
the armed forces and has the
ability to call new elections and
dissolve Parliament.

The Socialist Party has called
for Hungarians to allow a presi-
dential election before the par-
liamentary vote.

REFORMISTS:

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leader to fall from power in
weeks. All were hard-liners
resisted the reforms inspired
Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gor-
bachev.

Old Guard Politburo mem-
bers who were closely linked to the
line policies pursued since the
invasion stepped down, but
Urbanek and five colleagues re-
tained their seats.

Urbanek, in his first televised
speech to the nation Saturday,
opened the way for a more genuine
transition government and admitted
party mistakes.

"We have to distance ourselves
from all who have misused their
positions or positions," he said.
"Only then will people believe that
we want to end corruption."

"We know that we must sit down

and negotiate with all those who
are concerned about the destiny of
our country," Urbanek said.

He said he would talk with any-
one, including opposition leaders
and "those who left or had to leave
the party after 1968." He appeared
to refer to Dubcek, who was purged
along with half a million other
Communists.

But Urbanek said his offer was
"nothing new" and it was unclear
how much power the Communists
are willing to share, and when.

There are four other parties be-
sides the Communists in Czechoslo-
vakia. Traditionally docile, they
have no powerful ministries but
recently have become increasingly
independent.

In a concession to demonstrators,
President Gustav Husak granted
amnesty to leading jailed dissidents.

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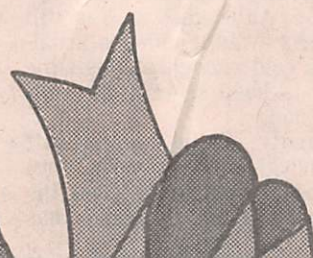
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SUNDANCE:

(Continued from Page A1)

ders itself a competitive ski resort and is going after out-of-state skiers and especially local skiers.

"For some years, local skiers may have formed an opinion that we really didn't want them here," said Warren.

But Warren said he is now convinced that Sundance needs local skiers as much as it does out-of-state skiers who have recreational residences at Sundance.

"We are now taking the stance that if the customer says it isn't it, then it isn't it, and Sundance won't survive without local skiers," said Warren.

"And (Robert) Redford is now 100 percent behind us in our conviction that we are in the ski business here." Redford owns Sundance.

As part of its program for local skiers, Sundance is selling The Sundance Card, that allows discount skiing for local skiers, Warren said.

Sundance is also for the first time allowing snowboarding. Snowboarding, a winter transmutation of surfing, is growing in popularity especially with the younger set.

New this year is a better way to groom steep slopes.

Warren said Sundance mountain crews will begin using a winch-cat grooming system that will open the steep slopes to more advanced skiers who are good skiers but may not be advanced as those who have been skiing these slopes.

He said the system uses two snowcats and a winch cable. Warren said they have purchased two new snowcats for the winch technique at a total cost of about \$300,000.

One snowcat serves as anchor at the top of the slope and the grooming snowcat is lowered and raised by winch rather than by its own power.

Warren said that snowcats under their own power on steep slopes, can only groom downhill. And they don't groom evenly because they use their treads and the grooming sections to brake, leaving rough areas.

But under winch power, the grooming is smoother, making steep ski runs easier to ski.

Winch-cat techniques are popular at steep European resorts and will be particularly useful on Sundance's back mountain, Warren

said.

Warren talks about the back mountain being a second Sundance that many Utah skiers are unaware of, and indicated that he hopes to get the word out about the back mountain ski runs.

The back mountain is the higher slopes located behind the slopes visible from the various lodges at Sundance.

The area is served by two triple-chair lifts and includes many of Sundance's advanced and intermediate ski runs.

"Some of the bowls on the back mountain are world class — Bishop's Bowl is world class," said Warren.

He said Bishop's bowl was so steep that most of the time Sundance's snowcats couldn't groom it. He said Grizzly Bowl could never be groomed. Warren said the winch-cat system will allow these areas to be easily groomed.

democratic reforms.

The beleaguered government bowed to some of the protesters' demands, releasing a group of prominent political prisoners and declaring a willingness to give non-Communists greater power.

Also Saturday, the entire Communist Party leadership of Prague resigned under increasing pressure for reform. There were indications the Prague party chief, Miroslav Stepan, was leaving the nation's ruling Politburo as well.

On Friday, the 13-man Politburo resigned and the party's policymaking Central Committee replaced it with a nine-man Politburo containing several hard-line holdovers including Stepan.

Another Central Committee meeting was planned for Sunday, with the government-run news agency Tisk saying only that the gathering would deal with "political and organizational questions."

Dubcek, the reformer ousted after Warsaw Pact tanks crushed his Prague Spring movement in 1968, was shown for the first time live on national television as he addressed a sea of flag-waving, roaring demonstrators at Letna field in north-

days earlier for making what some considered overly cautious comments, unleashed his strongest public assault on Communist leaders in more than 20 years. He said Friday's party changes had failed to go far enough.

"The changes did not meet the demands of the people," he said. "The political leadership has lost touch with the people, and the crisis has deepened."

"We appeal to the Central Committee that those who have caused the stagnation leave their posts and not obstruct further development of this country," said Dubcek, 67, speaking publicly for the third straight day.

Leading dissident Vaclav Havel welcomed the Politburo resignations but also told the crowd further changes were needed.

"Although some of the most discredited people ... were eliminated, we are deeply concerned by the new personnel lineup of our top party bodies," he said.

In a 16-hour session that stretched into early Saturday, the party Central Committee replaced party boss Milos Jakes with Karel Urbanek, a little-known, 48-year-old Politburo member who had been in charge of the Czech republic.

Jakes, 67, became the third East
(See REFORMISTS, Page A2)

expected the summit

tous: the holes in the Berlin Wall, the changing regimes in Poland, Hungary, East Germany and Bulgaria and fast-moving developments in Czechoslovakia. In Prague, the entire Czech ruling Politburo was pressured to resign in a remarkable weekend leadership shuffle that was continuing Saturday with the largest rally in the nation's history demanding still more change.

In his speech, Bush described his summit message to the Soviet leader this way:

"We will seek President Gorbachev's assurance that this process of reform in Eastern Europe will continue. And we will give him our assurance that America welcomes reform not as an adversary seeking advantage, but as a people offering support."

The setting for the talks is striking: U.S. and Soviet warships off the coast of the tiny, island nation of Malta, far from the crossroads of major international events.

Bush and Gorbachev will meet for more than seven hours over the